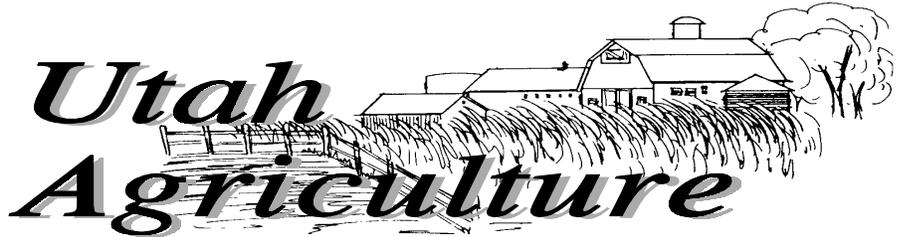




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U.S. Department of Agriculture
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HIGHLIGHTS:

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Roland Albert Transfers

Roland Albert, Deputy State Statistician for the Utah Agricultural Statistics Service for the past 9 years, has accepted a new challenge and will be transferring to our headquarters in Washington, D. C. in early August. Roland will be in charge of the Economics Section of the Environmental, Economics, and Demographics Branch. Serving in Headquarters is not new to Roland since he had served several years there before coming to Utah. Roland's career started in our California office and then to Arizona before spending his first tour in D.C.

The office will miss Roland and wish he and his wife Vickie the best of luck in the transition and new assignment. We know they will miss Utah and the outdoor activities available here. Roland is leaving with fond memories of the many farmers, ranchers and agribusiness people he has met in the state.

Kim Nielsen, a native of Preston, Idaho will replace Roland as our new Deputy State Statistician in early September. He is transferring from the same section that Roland will be heading up in D.C. Kim has been working directly on the prices paid by farmers and ranchers surveys and calculating the prices paid index which reflects a composite indication of change in the prices farmers pay for products to operate their farms and ranches. His career has included working in our California and Pennsylvania offices.

Kim and his wife Nancy have 6 children. He grew up on a dairy farm and is a graduate of Utah State University and currently has two of his children attending USU.

Agricultural Prices

UTAH: Prices received by Utah farmers and ranchers during mid-July were down from June prices for barley, but up for other hay and alfalfa hay. Barley, at \$1.83 per bushel, was 9 cents lower than the previous

month's price but the same as July 1999. Baled alfalfa hay was \$74.00 per ton, a \$10.00 increase from last month and up \$7.00 from last year. Other hay, at \$50.00 per ton, was \$10.00 higher than last month and \$15.00 above July 1999.

The lamb price for June 2000 was \$85.00 per cwt, \$15.00 less than May 2000 but up \$9.00 from July of last year. The June 2000 sheep price, at \$27.00 was \$3.00 more than May 2000 and \$1.00 less than July of last year.

UNITED STATES: The preliminary All Farm Products Index of Prices Received in July was 98 based on 1990-92=100, down 1 point (1.0 percent) from the June index. Lower prices for corn, wheat, soybeans, and eggs more than offset price increases for milk, cucumbers, onions, and potatoes. The seasonal change in the mix of commodities farmers sell often affects the overall index; however, these changes were essentially offsetting in July.

Compared with July 1999, the All Farm Products Index was 3 points (3.2 percent) higher. Price increases from July 1999 for hogs, cattle, wheat, and soybeans more than offset price decreases for milk, corn, grapes, and oranges.

U.S. Egg Production

U.S. egg production totaled 6.80 billion during June 2000, up 1 percent from the 6.74 billion produced in 1999. Production included 5.72 billion table eggs and 1.08 billion hatching eggs, of which 1.02 billion were broiler-type and 65.0 million were egg-type. The total number of layers during June 2000 averaged 325 million, up 1 percent from the total average number of layers during June 1999. June egg production per 100 layers was 2,092 eggs, down 1 percent from 2,104 eggs in June 1999.

All layers in the U.S. on July 1, 2000, totaled 325 million, up 1 percent from a year ago. The 325 million layers consisted of 266 million layers producing table or commercial type eggs, 56.5 million layers producing broiler-type hatching eggs, and 2.72 million layers producing egg-type hatching eggs. Rate of lay per day on July 1, 2000, averaged 69.4 eggs per 100 layers, down 1 percent from the 69.8 a year ago.

Livestock Slaughter

UTAH: Commercial red meat production totaled 45.9 million pounds in June 2000, up 0.7 percent from June 1999 and up 9.0 percent from May 2000.

UNITED STATES: Commercial red meat production for the United States totaled 3.94 billion pounds in June, up slightly from the previous record high for June set in 1999.

Beef production, at 2.37 billion pounds, was 2 percent above the previous record high for June set last year. Cattle slaughter totaled 3.24 million head, up 1 percent from 1999. The average live weight was up 10 pounds from the previous year, at 1,205 pounds.

Veal production totaled 19 million pounds, 1 percent below the previous record low for June set a year ago. Calf slaughter totaled 95 thousand head, down 9 percent from June 1999. The average live weight was 25 pounds above last year, at 322 pounds.

Pork production totaled 1.54 billion pounds, down 3 percent from the previous year. Hog kill totaled 7.95 million head, 4 percent below 1999. The average live weight was 3 pounds above the previous year, at 262 pounds.

Lamb and mutton production, at 17 million pounds, was down 1 percent from the previous record low for June set in 1999. Sheep slaughter totaled 260 thousand head, 4 percent below last year. The average live weight was 133 pounds, up 3 pounds from June a year ago.

1999 Farm Expenditures

UTAH: Farm production expenditures in 1999 for the Mountain Region (AZ, CO, ID, MT, NV, NM, UT, and WY) totaled \$14.42 billion, down less than 1 percent from the \$14.43 billion in 1998. Expenditures were lower for: Feed, down 7.0 percent; Farm Services, down 1.0 percent; Rent, down 2.7 percent; Agricultural Chemicals, down 5.7 percent; Fertilizer, Lime & Soil Conditioners, down 1.5 percent; Interest, down 3.6 percent; Taxes (Real Estate & Property), down 1.0 percent; Farm Supplies & Repairs, down 2.0 percent; Tractors and Self-Propelled Farm Machinery, down 14 percent; and Trucks & Autos, down 2.8 percent.

In the Mountain Region, expenditures were higher for: Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses, up 9.7 percent; Labor, up 3.5 percent; Fuels, up 0.6 percent; Farm Improvements & Construction, up 22 percent; Other Farm Machinery, up 5.3 percent; and Seeds & Plants, up 10 percent.

Farm Services, at \$2.2 billion, was still the largest 1999 expenditure by farmers, and accounted for 15 percent of the region's production expenses. Feed expenses, second largest expense, at \$1.9 billion, accounted for 13 percent of the total, and Livestock, Poultry & Related Expenses, third largest, at \$1.7 billion, accounted for 12 percent of the total.

UNITED STATES: The farm production expenditures totaled \$184.3 billion in 1999, up 0.6 percent from the revised 1998 total of \$183.2 billion. The largest contributors to the increase were; livestock and poultry purchases, up 15.9 percent; farm improvements and construction, up 10.1 percent; labor, up 3.7 percent; and farm supplies and repairs, up 3.3 percent. These increases were partially offset by decreases in; tractors and self-propelled machinery, down 10.0 percent; rent, down 8.1 percent; and fertilizer, down 6.6.

U.S. Cold Storage Highlights

Frozen food stocks in refrigerated warehouses on June 30, 2000, were greater than year earlier levels for fruit, red meat and orange juice concentrate. Cooler stocks of pecans and apples were also higher than a year earlier.

Total red meat supplies in freezers were 4 percent below May 2000 but 5 percent above June 1999. Frozen pork stocks were 8 percent below last month and 9 percent below last year. Stocks of pork bellies decreased 12 percent from last month and 35 percent from June 1999 stocks.

Total frozen poultry supplies were up 2 percent from last month but were 5 percent below last year's level. Total stocks of chicken were down 1 percent from last month and were 3 percent below June 1999. Total pounds of turkey in freezers increased 5 percent from last month but were 10 percent below last year.

Public cooler occupancy was at 45 percent of capacity, down 10 points from last year. Public freezer occupancy at 59 percent was down 3 percentage points from last year.

Stocks in Cold Storage, United States

Commodity	Jun 30, 1999	May 31, 2000	Jun 30, 2000
1,000 Pounds			
Total Frozen			
Eggs	11,272	8,106	8,771
Chickens	842,034	824,099	819,918
Turkeys	556,136	476,991	503,031
Cherries, Tart			
RSP	58,361	66,628	61,387
Juice	1,889	1,113	922
Cherries, Sweet . .	10,834	9,958	10,109
Potatoes	1,234,126	1,250,363	1,189,731
Beef	293,123	373,523	377,876
Pork	528,554	524,778	481,224
Lamb & Mutton . . .	12,459	13,105	13,952
Total in Storage			
Apples, Fresh	732,402	1,292,506	831,934
Butter	120,606	138,107	144,824
Cheese, Natural . .	728,420	763,382	782,268
American	531,268	554,619	574,567
Swiss	11,725	10,668	10,184
Other Natural . . .	185,427	198,095	197,517

U.S. July 1 Cattle Inventory

All cattle and calves in the United States as of July 1, 2000 totaled 106.4 million head, 1 percent below the 107.0 million on July 1, 1999 and 1 percent below the 107.7 million two years ago.

All cows and heifers that have calved, at 43.2 million, were slightly below the 43.3 million on July 1, 1999 and 1 percent below the 43.6 million two years ago. **Beef cows**, at 34.0 million, were down 1 percent from July 1, 1999 and 1 percent below two years ago. **Milk cows**, at 9.25 million, were up 1 percent from July 1, 1999 and 1 percent above two years ago.

Other class estimates on July 1, 2000, and the changes from July 1 last year and two years ago, respectively, are as follows: **all heifers** 500 pounds and over, 16.5 million, down 1 percent from both years; **beef replacement heifers**, 4.7 million, down 2 percent and down 6 percent; **milk replacement heifers**, 3.7 million, unchanged and up 3 percent; **other heifers**, 8.1 million, unchanged from both years; **steers** weighing 500 pounds and over, 14.3 million, down 1 percent and down 2 percent; **bulls** weighing 500 pounds and over, 2.1 million, down 5 percent from both years; and **calves under 500 pounds**, 30.3 million, down 1 percent from both years; **all cattle and calves on feed** for slaughter, 12.3 million, up 7 percent and up 12 percent.

The 2000 calf crop is expected to be 38.9 million, up slightly from 1999 and 1998. Calves born during the first half of the year are estimated at 28.6 million, up slightly from both years.

U.S. All Sheep and Lambs

All sheep and lamb inventory in the United States on July 1, 2000 totaled 8.50 million head, 6 percent below July 1, 1999. Breeding sheep inventory declined to 5.03 million head on July 1, 2000, 6 percent below July 1999. Market sheep and lambs (including newborn lambs), at 3.47 million head, were 5 percent below last July.

Of the July 1, 2000 breeding herd, 4.12 million head were ewes one year old and older, 205,000 head were rams one year old and older, and 710,000 head were replacement lambs (including newborn lambs).

Region 3 (CO, MT, SD, UT, & WY) accounted for 34.9 percent of the total sheep and lambs. Region 2 (NM & TX) accounted for 21.2 percent, Region 1 (AZ, CA, ID, NV, OR, & WA) for 16.8 percent, Region 4 (IA, KS, MN, MO, NE, ND, & OK) for 15.3 percent, and Region 5 (all other states) accounted for 11.8 percent.

The 2000 Lamb Crop in the United States is expected to total 4.53 million head, down 4 percent from the 1999 lamb crop of 4.72 million head. Lambs born during January through June 2000 totaled 4.02 million head or 89 percent of the yearly total. An additional 510,000 head are expected to be born during the period July through December 2000.

Mink Production

UTAH: Utah ranked second nationally in mink pelt production in 1999 with 650,000 pelts taken. Utah's production decreased by 3.7 percent from 1998. Wisconsin led the nation in mink production with 731,700 pelts taken, and saw a 8.6 percent decrease.

Utah produced 284,000 pelts in the Standard color class which accounted for 44 percent of the total production. The Mahogany color class accounted for 32 percent of the total pelts taken at 211,000. At 58,000 pelts, Demi-buff accounted for 8.9 percent of the Utah total. Females bred to produce kits in 2000 totaled 163,000, a 4.5 percent increase from 1999.

UNITED STATES: Mink pelt production in 1999 totaled 2.81 million, down 4 percent from 1998. Mink pelts produced during the 1999 crop year were valued at \$94.8 million, up 30 percent from \$72.9 million a year ago. The average price per pelt for the 1999 crop year was \$33.70, up from \$24.80 in 1998. Female mink bred to produce kits in 2000 totaled 660,400, down 2 percent from the previous year.

Mink: Pelts Produced in 1999 and Females Bred for 2000

Type	Pelts Produced 1999		Females Bred To Produce Kits 2000	
	Utah	U S	Utah	U S
	Thousand			
Standard	284.0	1,067.4	67.9	254.2
Ranch Wild . . .	11.0	171.6	*	31.7
Demi-Buff ^{1/} . . .	58.0	106.3	12.9	23.1
Pastel	*	40.5	*	12.5
Pale Brown . . .		1.2		0.7
Sapphire	32.0	140.7	5.7	33.0
Gunmetal	23.0	458.9	12.6	115.0
Mahogany	211.0	719.1	51.1	156.8
Pearl	*	32.3	*	11.2
Lavender Hope . .		9.0		2.1
Pink		3.3		0.5
Violet Type . . .	*	8.6	*	2.3
White		52.2	*	16.9
Miscellaneous . .		1.7		0.4
Total	650.0	2,812.8	163.0	660.4

^{1/} This color class includes Demi-Buff, Dark Brown, Violet, Pastel, Standard, Pearl crosses, and others.

* Included in other States to avoid disclosing individual operations.

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U.S. Cattle on Feed

Cattle and calves on feed for slaughter market in the United States for feedlots with capacity of 1,000 or more head totaled 10.39 million head on July 1, 2000. The inventory was 9 percent above July 1, 1999 and 13 percent above July 1, 1998. The inventory included 6.22 million steers and steer calves, up 8 percent from the previous year. This group accounted for 60 percent of the total inventory. Heifers and heifer calves accounted for 4.13 million head, up 9 percent from 1999. **Placements** in feedlots during June totaled 1.66

million, 7 percent below 1999 but 6 percent above 1998. Net placements were 1.61 million. During June, placements of cattle and calves weighing less than 600 pounds were 347,000, 600-699 pounds were 380,000, 700-799 pounds were 498,000, and 800 pounds and greater were 439,000. **Marketings** of fed cattle during June totaled 2.16 million, slightly above 1999 and 6 percent above 1998. **Other disappearance** totaled 57,000 during June, 10 percent below 1999 and 21 percent below 1998.

Cattle on Feed: Number on Feed, Placements, Marketings, and Other Disappearance, 1,000+ Capacity Feedlots, United States, July 1, 1998-2000

Item	Number			2000 as Percent of	
	1998	1999	2000	1998	1999
 1,000 Head Percent	
On Feed Jun 1 ^{1/}	9,703	9,987	*10,937	113	110
Placed on Feed during Jun	1,564	1,794	1,664	106	93
Fed Cattle Marketed during Jun	2,034	2,153	2,155	106	100
Other Disappearance during Jun ^{2/}	72	63	57	79	90
On Feed Jul 1 ^{1/}	9,161	9,565	10,389	113	109

* Revised. ^{1/} Cattle and calves on feed are animals for slaughter market being fed a ration of grain or other concentrates and are expected to produce a carcass that will grade select or better. ^{2/} Includes death losses, movement from feedlots to pastures and shipments to other feedlots for further feeding.